



**LOUISVILLE JOURNAL**  
PRENTICE, HENDERSON, & OSBORNE.  
Daily \$10. Tri-Weekly \$6. Weekly \$3.  
The Tri-Weekly Journal is published on  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.  
The Weekly Journal is published on Tuesdays.

The County Journal \$6 per year.  
Evening Bulletin (City) 10 cents per week.—Country \$4 per annum, or \$10 per 3 months.  
Weekly Bulletin \$1.

## LOUISVILLE.

MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1854.

HAS A STATE THE RIGHT TO BUILD BRIDGES OVER A NAVIGABLE STREAM?—The right to obstruct the navigation of a river by building a bridge over it, has been denied, and in the Wheeling bridge case, the Supreme Court of the United States established the law on this subject.

The right of navigation is decided to be the prior vested right, but as we understand that case, the right to erect the bridge is conceded, provided it is so built as not to impede navigation.

It is not our purpose to enter into an argument in reference to the rights of bridge companies, but simply to draw attention to a proceeding that has recently been instituted in the Circuit Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, that is of much importance, as in this case, the right of States to authorize bridges to be built over navigable rivers is involved. The Constitution gives to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the most important of the most sacred laws of the country, is the law of the coasting trade, which will be violated if such a right is given to states.

With the barbarian, there is a spirit calculated for the fate of those. Hostilities of ten thousand between belligerent armies to a low act to bury their dead and provide for the wounded. History few if any instances where an aristocrat or a true man, who would not have the rank of the nation, the American government.

The Free Press may be right, but we trust and believe that no treaty will ever be ratified by the Senate of the United States that distinctly abrogates the rights of the South.

The editor of the Free Press says these sentiments have been drawn up, and according to the best of his information, both private and public, he is inclined to believe that the Free Press is right, and that the administration of Mr. Fillmore is more than half right.

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THE ATROPHIES OF WAR.—The war which is now raging in front of Sevastopol seems to be conducted in a spirit of savage sanguinity.

It was expected that a war between such mighty powers as Russia and the allies would be prosecuted with vigor, and that it would be conducted on principles of exalted honor, worthy the high civilization of the combatants.

We expected to hear of great slaughter of men but of no barbarous outrages of the right and duties of humanity. We were therefore surprised and our very blood was chilled upon reading the account of the burning of the hospital of Sebastopol by the allies and the destruction amid the configuration of two thousand sick and wounded!

The English account of this terrible scene, which has recently rendered him notorious by his efforts in his former military service in Peru, is that it was conducted with no opposition. He suffers much at the thought of the conduct of his countrymen, which will be exposed to the world.

Applications are generally acted upon within four days after they are made. He recommends several amendments to the present law.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.**—From the 20th Session of Congress, the 30th of September, 1854, 9,684,461 acres were surveyed, chiefly in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Florida, and 8,628,000 acres were broken up into sections. This is exclusive of the surveys in Oregon, California, and Washington, amounting to 1,869,471 acres, which is the reason that those in California could not be disposed of till the privates claimed and presented to the surveyor general. The survey was made by law for the ordinary sale of lands in Oregon and Washington, till the last session of Congress.

**THE COTTON FIELD.**—During the year ending the 30th of September last, 125,743 patents, under the various laws, were granted, 111,168 were recorded, occupying 224 folio volumes; 249 manuscript patents were also written and recorded, covering 851 pages, or two thousand five hundred and forty-four folio pages.

Each of the 1,000 applications for a patent is accompanied by a drawing, which is very clear and distinct.

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**GEN. MILLER AND COMMISSIONER GEORGE.**—An article in the *Burlington (Vt.) Free Press* contains some interesting facts mentioned in a private letter to the editor, from Honolulu, in regard to the subject of the burning of the hospital of Sebastopol by the allies and the destruction amid the configuration of two thousand sick and wounded!

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